

Aboriginal stone arrangements are usually related to increase ceremonies, carried out to procreate animal and plant (food) species or even human beings. Increase rituals are still held in the more remote parts of the state, particularly where the Aborigines are still in their own territory. The ceremonies are conducted by the senior male members of the group under conditions of great secrecy. In some areas (e.g. the Western Desert) these ceremonies do not only involve chanting (perhaps in the clearing) and dancing, but also bloodletting (usually from the subincisions of the participants), sometimes leading to washing the hair in blood or covering the stone or stones with blood.

There is of course not enough evidence to state that this was so in the case of the possible site described. Stan Gratte, who has been working for some time now on sites in the Geraldton-Murehison area, hopes to obtain more reliable information eventually.

The number of Aboriginal sites recorded in the south-west division of the state is rather small compared to other areas of Western Australia. It is through the alertness and interest of farmers like Mr. Finlay that information comes to hand from time to time. We would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Finlay for his cooperation and hospitality. The site has been reported to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, which is currently engaged in indexing all known Aboriginal sites in Australia, and the Western Australian Museum.

A BIRD LIST FROM THE DRYANDRA FOREST

By R. JOB

During 1967 and 1968 visits were paid to the Dryandra Forest and the adjacent Congelin water reserve, a little over a hundred miles from Perth. The Dryandra in the main consists of open woodland where the wandoo (*Eucalyptus redunca*) is the dominant tree. The undergrowth is dominated by species of *Dryandra*, particularly *D. nobilis*, while the sandplain poison (*Gastrolobium microcarpum*) occasionally forms dense stands. At Congelin dam the woodland is more open, with very little sandplain poison.

In 1967 forty-two days or parts of days were spent in the area, from March 4 to December 17. The number of days spent there per month was as follows:— March, 4; April, 3; May, 1; June, 6; July, 2; August, 4; September, 5; October, 7; November, 4; December, 6.

Visits in 1968 were, unfortunately, much less frequent, twenty days in all being spent in the area, divided as follows:—January, 3; February, 4; March, 4; April, 4; May, 2; September, 1; October, 2.

The following is a check-list of the birds encountered on these visits. This does not claim to be all inclusive, and is unsatisfactory in at least two respects. Notable absentees are the nocturnal birds, with the exception of the Boobook Owl; at least one other species of owl was heard within the forest quite regularly, but unfortunately this bird was never seen. Furthermore, as a European ornithologist new to Australia, I only recorded definite sightings where the identity of the bird was not in doubt, until such time as I learnt to identify the bird by song alone. Thus records could give a misleading impression of the scarcity of some unobtrusive species.

All records are of birds within the Dryandra or Congelin areas except at one point where a dam in a wheat field lay

adjacent to the perimeter fence of the forest; this different habitat attracted a number of species which were never seen within the bounds of the forest.

Little Grebe, *Podiceps novae-hollandiae*.—Seen only on the small dam described above, which for convenience I shall call 'the parrot dam' (this family of birds were its most frequent visitors throughout the summer). Dec. 10, 1967 (2); Dec. 16, 1967 (2) adults and a young bird; Jan. 27-29, 1968 (2); April 6, 1968 (1).

Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*.—Seen only around the 'parrot dam'. Dec. 10 (1); Jan. 27 and 28, 1968 (1); Feb. 25, 1968 (2); March 3, 1968 (1); April 7, 1968 (1).

White-faced Heron, *Ardea novae-hollandiae*.—Seen at the 'parrot dam'. Dec. 10, 1967 (1); Dec. 17 (1); Jan. 27, 1968 (2); Feb. 25 (1); March 3 (2); April 7 (1); April 28 (1); Feb. 24, 1968 (1 beside a small dam near the Forestry settlement).

Mountain Duck, *Tadorna tadornoides*.—Seen only at the 'parrot dam'. Jan. 28, 1968 (1); April 6, 1968 (1); April 28 (2).

Black Duck, *Anas superciliosa*.—July 9, 1967 (1 on Congelin dam); Aug. 5 and 6, 1967 (2 on small dam within the forest); Dec. 16 (2 on 'parrot dam'); Jan. 27, 1968 (4 on 'parrot dam'); March 3, 1968 (2 flew over Congelin dam); April 7, 1968 (7 on 'parrot dam').

Grey Teal, *Anas gibberifrons*.—August 6, 1967 (2 on Congelin dam); Oct. 1, 1967 (1 on Congelin dam); Dec. 16 and 17, 1967 (1 on 'parrot dam').

Maned Goose, *Chenonetta jubata*.—July 9, 1967 (7 on the Congelin dam; courtship and threat displays seen. In the first the male raised his belly out of the water to near the vertical, jerked back his head and turned it, so that the beak was inclined downward toward the plumage of the back, thus showing off to advantage the mane-like feathers on the back of the neck. The threat display was similar to that of a Coot, with head and neck flattened on the water); Oct. 1, 1967 (5 on Congelin dam); Dec. 10, 1967 (11 on 'parrot dam'); Dec. 16 (15 on 'parrot dam'). Jan. 27, 1968 (2 on 'parrot dam'); April 6 (2 on 'parrot dam'); Oct. 26 (3 on 'parrot dam'); Oct. 27 (2 on Congelin dam and 17 on 'parrot dam').

Whistling Eagle, *Haliastur sphenurus*.—Seen only on four occasions on the outskirts of the forest. Dec. 16 and 17, 1967 (1 over the 'parrot dam'); Feb. 18, 1968 (1 over the 'parrot dam' area); Feb. 24, 1968 (1 flew over Congelin Dam).

Australian Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus*.—Oct. 21 and 22, 1967, (1 immature bird); Dec. 9 (1 being mobbed by two unidentified small birds); Dec. 16 (1); Sept. 21, 1968 (1).

Collared Sparrow-Hawk, *Accipiter cirrocephalus*.—Dec. 3, 1967 1 perched in a thickly-leaved portion of a gum tree overlooking the Congelin dam ascribed to this species on account of its small size, which was about that of a Nankeen Kestrel.

Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*.—The most frequently observed raptor within the Dryandra. March 5, 1967 (3); April 15 (1); April 22 (1); June 4 (2 then a few minutes later 3 flying in the same direction); Aug 6 (2); Sept. 3 (2); Oct. 15 (1); Nov. 12 (1); Nov. 19 (1); Jan. 27 (1 immature); Jan. 28, 1968 (1 immature); March 17 (1 immature on outskirts of forest, 2 adults in nearby area); May 19 (1); Sept. 21 (1); Oct. 26 (4 in air at one spot); Oct. 27 (2).

Brown Hawk, *Falco berigora*.—Jan. 27, 1968 (1 light phase bird in 'parrot dam' area); Feb. 24, 1968 (1 near Forestry settlement).

Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides*—1 on March 17, 1968 flying along outskirts of forest.

Mallee-Fowl, *Leipoa ocellata*—This, the most noted of the Dryandra's birds, was not seen on many occasions. The following records refer to widely separated sections of the forest. Aug. 5, 1967 (2); Sept. 16, 1967 (1); Feb. 28, 1968 (1).

Painted Quail, *Turnix varia*—Recorded most months of the year, but never frequent. Usually two birds were the maximum to be seen on any walk through the forest. Jan. 27, 1968 3 were seen just inside the forest and 5 more in a drive across a paddock of stubble adjacent to the forest (the paddock in which the 'parrot dam' lies).

Little Quail, *Turnix velox*—In a drive across a paddock of stubble on Jan. 27, 1968 two quail much smaller than Painted Quail were flushed. These were about 5in. in length, a rich brown in colour, a prominent white abdomen, and one was noted as having reddish legs as it rose from the ground.

Black-fronted Dotterel, *Charadrius melanops*—All records are from the 'parrot dam'. Dec. 10, 1967 (2); Dec. 17 (1 giving an injury display, but no nest was found); also recorded on Jan. 27, Jan. 28, March 16 and 17, and April 6, 1968.

Common Bronzewing, *Phaps chalcoptera*—The commonest of two bronzewing pigeons in the forest. Seen throughout the year. Never more than four seen on any one walk through the forest, but a good way to form some estimate of numbers would be to make counts of individuals visiting the few areas of permanent water in the height of the summer. Feb. 25, 1968 (12 in the early morning at the Congelin dam, compared to one individual of the scarcer Brush Bronzewing).

Brush Bronzewing, *Phaps elegans*—This very attractive pigeon was seen on far fewer occasions than the above. May 21, 1967 (1); Nov. 12, 1967 (1 flew from what was probably a nesting platform—a rather shapeless scattering of twigs—about fifteen feet from the ground in the first fork of a young slender gum; the bird flew to the ground and performed some injury feigning antics before flying up into a nearby tree); Nov. 19, 1967 (3); Feb. 24, 1968 (1); Feb. 25 (1 at Congelin dam); Oct. 27 (1 at Congelin dam).

Purple-crowned Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*—Recorded in September, October and December, 1967 (numerous flocks noted around the Congelin dam in October); Jan. 27 (flock of 6); April 7, 1968 (flock of 8); Oct. 26 and Oct. 27, 1968 (numerous small flocks around the Congelin dam area; estimated at least two hundred birds involved).

White-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus baudinii*—First noted in 1967 in June (June 25, a flock of 6); a suspected nesting pair was seen in one of our most visited areas throughout Sept., Oct. and Nov. 1967: Nov. 18 and 19, 1967 (group of 7 birds); Dec. 17 (flock of over 20); not noted again until Feb. 25, 1968 (2 came to drink at the Congelin dam); first noted in 1968 on Sept. 21 when a pair were in the same area where they were suspected of breeding the previous year.

Smoker Parrot, *Polytelis anthopeplus*.—Only record is of two birds on June 4, 1967.

Western Rosella, *Platycercus icterotis*.—Next to the Twenty-eight the most frequently seen parrot within the Dryandra. Recorded regularly throughout the year.

Red-capped Parrot, *Purpureicephalus spurius*.—Recorded throughout the year but does not appear to be as numerous as the

Western Rosella. Sept. 17, 1967 (parties with well-grown swift-flying immatures).

Twenty-eight Parrot, *Barnardius zonarius*.—Commonest parrot of the Dryandra Forest. Seen throughout the year. Though Western Rosellas, Red-capped Parrots, Elegant Grass Parrots and occasionally Purple-crowned Lorikeets visited the 'parrot dam', the Twenty-eight was the characteristic species. At dawn on Dec. 17, 1967 I saw a Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) pounce out of the tall wheat attempting to catch one of two Twenty-eights feeding on the ground in the open on the edge of the wheat. It was interesting in the hotter months watching Twenty-eights taking advantage of any slight dew in the early morning to bathe; they would fly above a cluster of leaves at the top of a tree, then flop noisily into them, at the same time spreading out their wings and going through all the motions of a bird bathing; after doing this in several trees, the now sodden parrot would fly on to a bare branch and preen.

Elegant Grass-Parrot, *Neophema elegans*.—First recorded in 1967 in September and never more than two were seen in any one day until Dec. 3 (5); Dec. 10 (4 at the 'parrot dam'). In 1968 records are as follows—Jan. 27 (1); April 6 (6 in the 'parrot dam' area); April 7 (3); April 28 (1, then a group of 6); May 19 (two groups of 3); Oct. 27 (2).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*.—1967—Oct. 1 (1); Oct. 7 (2); Oct. 14 (1); Oct. 22 (1); Nov. 18 (1); Nov. 19 (1); 1968—May 18 (1 seen, and others heard, and heard again the following day).

Boobook Owl, *Ninox novae-seelandiae*.—Though only one individual seen (1 at 4 a.m. on Sept. 17, 1967) this species was often heard calling in the forest after dark.

Laughing Kookaburra, *Dacelo gigas*.—Not a common bird in the Dryandra. A group heard calling on April 22, 1967; Nov. 12, 1967 (1); Dec. 3, 1967 (group heard); Jan. 27, 1968 (group heard); Feb. 17 (group heard); Oct. 26 and 27 (1 at Congelin dam).

Sacred Kingfisher, *Halcyon sancta*.—Oct. 8, 1967 (1); Dec. 10, 1967 (1); Oct. 27, 1968 (1).

Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus*.—Recorded in 1967 on March 4 and 5, then not again until Oct. 14 (2); on Oct. 22 in an open part of the forest one flew up from the forest floor and a newly excavated tunnel going down at a slight angle into the sandy soil was discovered; by Nov. 11 there were eight such tunnels in this area. Seen throughout Dec., Jan. and Feb., 1968 (15 on Feb. 24); last recorded on March 16 (about half a dozen). Oct. 26 and 27, 1968 (about a score over the Congelin dam).

Welcome Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*.—Though seen regularly over the 'parrot dam', appears to avoid the forest. An unusual record was of two birds collecting mud off the forest floor well within the forest on Sept. 17, 1967, the only record of this species inside the forest.

Tree-Martin, *Petrochelidon nigricans*.—Found throughout the year inside the forest and over the 'parrot dam' and Congelin dam.

Australian Pipit, *Anthus novae-seelandiae*.—Seen only on open ground in the vicinity of the 'parrot dam' and outside the forest.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina novae-hollandiae*.—Though seen most months of the year not a numerous species. Apart from 3 on Oct. 22, 1967, all records are of one or two birds.

Chestnut Quail-Thrush, *Cinlosoma castanotum*.—Only two records of this elusive species. On March 3, 1968 we disturbed a chestnut-brown bird with a blackish medium-long rounded tail

edged with white from the forest floor. It was extremely wary, never flying far and always flying low, moving from one piece of dense fallen timber to the next. I had only one back view of it perched, and had just time to note that it was a grey-headed chestnut-backed bird before it disappeared from view. On April 28, 1968, my wife saw a bird in the open in another part of the forest and was able to note the black throat and chest, the black line below the eye, with a white line below this.

White-browed Babbler, *Pomatostomus superciliosus*.—Very locally distributed within the forest. A group seen quite regularly in a part of the forest near the Congelin dam; apart from these only seen in two other areas of the forest, one sighting in each area. This species has been seen indulging in the practice of mutual preening, which is of interest to a European ornithologist in that, so far as I am aware, no Passerines in Europe have been credited with this habit. Other Australian Passerines observed in mutual preening activities have been Splendid Wrens and Dusky Wood-Swallows.

Banded Blue Wren, *Malurus splendens*.—Very locally distributed. Five separate groups have been noted within the forest, one of which frequents the area around the Congelin dam. Avoids the dense stands of sandplain poison in which the Blue-breasted Wren is found. Unlike the Blue-breasted Wren the male Banded Blue Wren when in song seems to prefer tall bushes and small trees and perches higher than the other species. Males seen in full plumage from August to January.

Blue-breasted Wren, *Malurus pulcherrimus*.—Common and widely distributed within the Dryandra, particularly in areas of sandplain poison. The only nest we found, however, was in an open part of the forest on Dec. 3, 1967; the globular nest, with an opening in the side, was attached to some branches amid a pile of dead branches on the forest floor, was flimsily built and was near ground level. It contained three young who were constantly being fed by one female—only one was seen at any one time—and two fully plumaged males. The female was seen to go inside the nest and brood the young for a couple of minutes; neither male lingered at the nest once feeding the young had finished, one male waiting in the background whilst the other fed the young. On our next visit, Dec. 9, the nest was empty. A fully plumaged male of this species was first seen on July 8, 1967 and the last fully plumaged male until Oct. 26, 1968 was seen on Jan. 28, 1968.

Western Warbler, *Gerygone fusca*.—Not recorded very frequently, and then only a single bird being noted on any one occasion. Most records in summer when located by its distinctive song.

Broad-tailed Thornbill, *Acanthiza apicalis*.—Recorded most months, sometimes associated with other small birds.

Western Thornbill, *Acanthiza inornata*.—Recorded throughout the year, sometimes with other species i.e. Oct. 14, 1967 seen with Yellow-tailed Thornbills and a Western Warbler. Sept. 3, 1967 a group consisting entirely of this species.

Yellow-tailed Thornbill, *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*.—Found on the periphery of the forest in more open areas. Common in the area around Congelin dam and along the edge of the forest in the 'parrot dam' area.

Spotted Scrub-Wren, *Sericornis maculatus*.—Seen most months of the year. Seems to prefer the thick stands of sandplain poison, where it is often found in association with the Blue-breasted Wren.

Weebill, *Smicronis brevirostris*.—Not recorded frequently. Only record of any more than two birds was on March 16, 1968, along a border of the forest.

White-fronted Chat, *Epthianura albifrons*—March 17, 1968
3 seen around the edge of the 'parrot dam'.

Scarlet Robin, *Petroica multicolor*—Not often seen within the forest; more common on the outskirts, especially around the Congelin dam area and the 'parrot dam' area. Nevertheless odd pairs do occur in scattered parts of the forest, and it is less local in distribution than either the Red-capped or Hooded Robins.

Red-capped Robin, *Petroica goodenovii*—Only seen in the open spaces in the Congelin dam and 'parrot dam' areas. Jan. 27 and 28, 1968 both members of a pair feeding a fledging in the 'parrot dam' area. Never more than a pair seen in either area.

Hooded Robin, *Petroica cucullata*—Confined to the 'parrot dam' and Congelin dam areas, except for 3 seen in an open part of the forest on March 17, 1968. A pair seen in both areas. Probably other areas bordering the forest contain other pairs of this and the preceding species.

Western Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria griseogularis*—The dominant robin of the Dryandra, and one of the most characteristic birds of the forest. Catholic in its choice of areas being found in the thicker parts of the forest and in the more open areas frequented by the other species of robins. Jan. 27, 1968 adults feeding fledglings were observed.

Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*—Widely spread though not in great numbers throughout the forest. Seen throughout the year.

Willy Wagtail, *Rhipidura leucophrys*—Seen throughout the year. Much commoner than the Grey Fantail. Oct. 1, 1967 a nest in the course of completion was found about six feet off the ground on a horizontal bare branch built incorporating a projecting twig. Oct. 8, 3 eggs, both members of the pair incubating; in the period watched changeovers occurred after 21 minutes, 7½ and 18 minutes. Oct. 14, still incubating. Oct. 21, feeding 3 young, naked except for tufts on the head; when not being fed were brooded by one of the parents. On our next visit, Nov. 11, the nest was empty. Oct. 22, 1967 a second pair of Willy Wagtails with a nest was found; this was only a couple of feet off the ground and was also on a bare branch built so as to incorporate a projecting twig. There were no eggs but the bird was sitting. On Nov. 11 there were three naked reptilian looking young being fed and brooded. On Nov. 19 the young, now almost fully feathered, were found dead in the nest.

Restless Flycatcher, *Scisura iniquita*—Seen throughout the year, and widely though thinly distributed within the forest. Nov. 19, 1967 a nest was located in the fork and near the top of a very tall tree, about forty feet from the ground. The bird was sitting on the nest on Nov. 19 and Dec. 2.

Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala pectoralis*—The commoner of the two species of Whistler, and thinly spread over the forest, no more than two males being seen on any one walk through the forest.

Rufous Whistler, *Pachycephala rufiventris*—Much more localised in distribution than the above. Only seen in three different areas of the forest. Oct. 27, 1968 2 males singing in Congelin dam area.

Western Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla rufiventris*—Well distributed throughout the forest. Jan. 26, 1968 1 adult accompanied by a fledging. Seen throughout the year. Largest number seen on any one walk through the forest was 3 on April 28, 1968.

Western Shrike-Tit, *Falcunculus frontatus*—Thinly spread in certain sections of the more open parts of the forest, seen usually

in tall trees searching the bark for insects. Never more than two individuals seen on any one occasion.

Crested Bellbird, *Oreoica gutturalis*.—The presence of this species within the forest was not suspected until Dec 3, 1967 when an immature bird (grey head with very pronounced crest, dark brown body, buffish-orange rump, short tail) was seen in an area bordering the main track through the forest. On Dec. 16, a male was seen being harried by a Willy Wagtail along the boundary of the forest in the 'parrot dam' area; once the song was known a bird was often heard calling in this area, though I have not heard it in other parts of the forest.

Black-capped Sittella, *Neositta pileata*.—Seen irregularly within the forest throughout the year, most records being of small wandering flocks, usually seen on the borders of the forest.

Rufous Tree-creeper, *Climacteris rufa*.—With the Yellow Robin, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater and Dusky Wood Swallow one of the most characteristic birds of the Dryandra. Well distributed throughout the forest in some numbers. Aug. 6, 1967 a pair were watched showing an interest in a possible nesting hole high up in a bare tree on the outskirts of the forest, and on Sept. 3, 1967 a pair were watched collecting nesting material from the forest floor and taking it up to a spout about thirty feet up in a wandoo. A fully fledged young bird was noted on Nov. 19, 1967.

Spotted Diamond-bird, *Pardalotus punctatus*.—Only one definite record of this species, 1 on June 10, 1967 when the spotted crown and wings could be clearly seen.

Red-tipped Diamond-bird, *Pardalotus substriatus*.—Seen throughout the year and common and well distributed throughout the forest. In summer often heard calling in the heat of the day long after other birds have become silent. Sept. 21, 1968 a pair had a nest in the upper part of a crevice about twenty feet up the side of a slender gum tree; from the frequency of their visits it was judged that they were feeding young.

Silvereye, *Zosterops gouldi*.—Seen irregularly throughout the year, mainly in small flocks.

Singing Honeyeater, *Meliphaga virescens*.—Only one record of this species; 1 seen on the boundary of the forest near the 'parrot dam' on Jan. 28, 1968.

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, *Meliphaga ornata*.—Far and away the commonest honeyeater in the Dryandra, and perhaps the commonest small bird in the forest. Very noisy, sociable and pugnacious. Seen in all areas of the forest and on every visit.

White-naped Honeyeater, *Melithreptus lunatus*.—Seen throughout the year and well-distributed within the forest. Though not as numerous as the Yellow-plumed Honeyeater it is still quite a common bird.

Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*.—Seen throughout the year in different sections of the forest, occasionally seen in some numbers but more usually just a pair of birds noted on any one walk in the forest.

New Holland Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris novae-hollandiae*.—Next to the Yellow-plumed Honeyeater this is the honeyeater most frequently encountered. I estimate it to be a commoner species than the White-naped, which in turn is rather commoner than the Spinebill. Seen throughout the year and well distributed within the forest.

Red Wattle-bird, *Anthochaera carunculata*.—Very locally distributed and not often recorded, never more than two birds being seen on any one occasion.

Little Wattle-bird, *Anthochaera chrysoptera*.—Much commoner and more widely distributed than the above, especially around the Congelin dam area. Often heard calling in the neighbourhood of stands of Dryandra flowers. On April 27, 1968 this was the noisiest bird in the sections of the forest we visited.

Magpie-Lark, *Grallina cyanoleuca*.—Dec. 10, 1967, Jan. 26 and 27, 1968 (1 beside the 'parrot dam'); Feb. 25, 1968 (1 around the Forestry settlement).

Dusky Wood-Swallow, *Artamus cyanopterus*.—One of the commonest and most widely distributed birds within the Dryandra. Seen on every visit. Dec. 2, 1967 1 adult with 3 young which had just reached the flying stage. May 18, 1968 a tall tree's bare upper branches was used as a communal roost by this species, 21 birds flying into it at dusk.

Squeaker, *Strepera versicolor*.—Seen in three different areas of the forest, a pair around the Congelin dam area, a pair around the 'parrot dam' area, and on Aug. 6, 1967 in an area not often visited where the forest borders grassy paddocks 6 birds.

Western Magpie, *Gymnorhina dorsalis*.—A frequenter of the borders of the forest and cleared areas around the Forestry settlement. Regular around the 'parrot dam' and Congelin dam areas, a group of 7 birds drinking at the Congelin dam on Feb. 24, 1968. Only one record of it deep within the forest, when a group of 5 flew over one of our most frequented areas near the main track through the forest.

Raven, *Corvus coronoides*.—Well distributed within the forest and on its borders, and seen regularly though not in large numbers throughout the year.

OTHER FAUNA

The following native mammals were encountered on our visits to the Dryandra:—Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), Common Marsupial Mouse (*Sminthopsis murina*), Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*), Short nosed Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*), Pigmy Possum (*Cercaetus concinnus*), Brush-tailed Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), Brush-tailed Rat-Kangaroo (*Bettongia penicillata*), Tammar (*Protemnodon eugenii*), Brush Wallaby (*Protemnodon irma*) and Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus ocydromus*).

On November 12, 1967 we had what was probably our most exciting encounter in the Dryandra, a battle between two male Gould's Goannas (*Varanus gouldii*), the victor of which then twice mated with a female who all the time had lain motionless, her head facing away from the combatants.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Call of the Kelp Gull.—Reports of the Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) in Australian waters have not mentioned the call of this species. Possibly individuals and small groups are not particularly vocal.

In New Zealand, where Kelp Gulls occur in numbers, they are vociferous. The calls are quite distinct from the Pacific Gull (*Larus pacificus*). I set down the characteristic call as "Yoh-yoh-yoh-yoh-yoh-yoh." This call has been referred to as a "laughing" call but to my ear resembles the termination of the call of the Southern Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus magirostris*) and has a sobbing quality.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.